

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro,

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 appropriations bill by including no less than \$4.7 billion for this program that provides critical support to our most vulnerable citizens.

LIHEAP helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. LIHEAP households are among the most vulnerable in the country. According to the National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA), more than 90 percent of LIHEAP recipients have at least one household member who is a child, elderly, or disabled, and 20 percent of households contain at least one veteran. For these households, LIHEAP funding has been a lifeline during challenging economic times. Access to affordable home energy is not a luxury – it is a matter of health and safety.

We understand the ongoing discretionary budget challenges. However, we are deeply concerned that funding for LIHEAP has declined more than 30 percent in recent years. Moreover, the number of households eligible for assistance continues to exceed available funding. According to NEADA, the total number of households receiving LIHEAP assistance has declined by 17.7 percent between FY 2010 and FY 2014, from 8.1 million to 6.6 million. About 1.5 million poor households have lost access to critical LIHEAP assistance and struggle to pay for the basic necessity of home energy in addition to other essentials like food and medicine.

Funding has declined by almost \$1.7 billion since FY 2010, yet energy costs have remained high, reducing the purchasing power of LIHEAP assistance. Recipients have seen their average LIHEAP grant reduced by about \$95 since 2010, from \$520 in FY 2010 to \$424 in FY 2014. The average LIHEAP grant is estimated to cover less than half of the average home heating costs for a household this winter, meaning that many low-income families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet other basic needs.

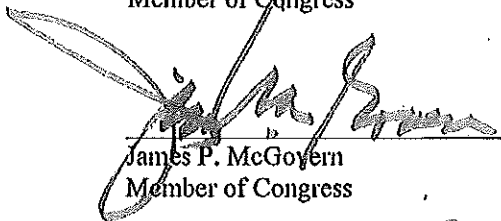
As you finalize your FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you take into account the great need for LIHEAP. We urge you to reprioritize this program and restore funding to this program to a level no less than \$4.7 billion.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request.

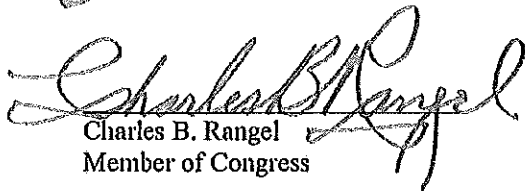
Sincerely,



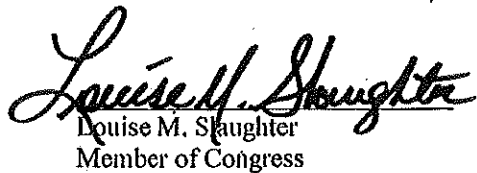
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



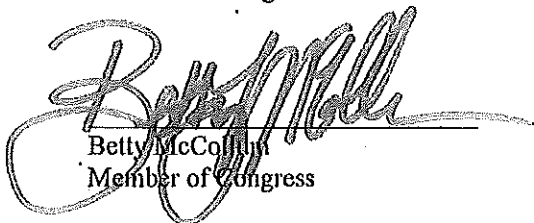
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



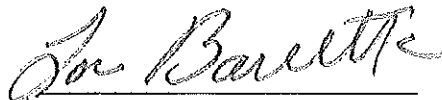
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



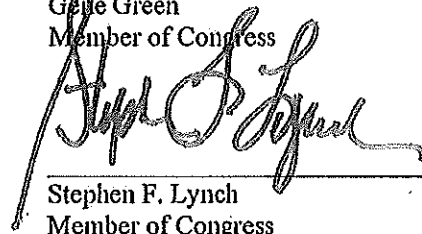
Peter King  
Member of Congress



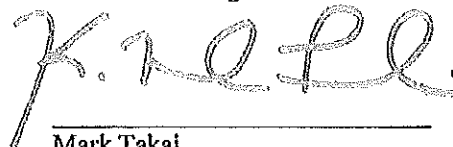
Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



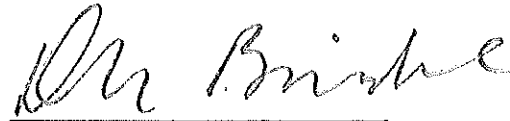
Gabe Green  
Member of Congress



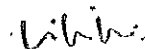
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



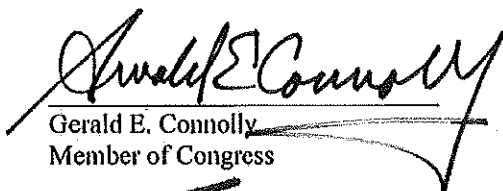
Mark Takai  
Member of Congress

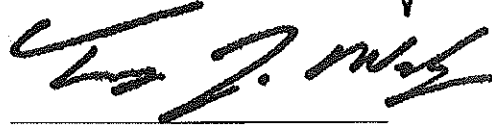


Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress

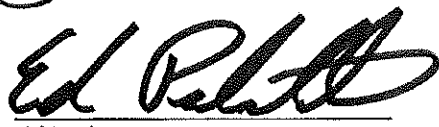



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

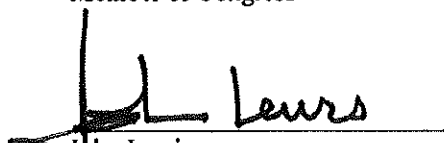
  
Gerald E. Connolly  
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Tim Walz  
Member of Congress


  
G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

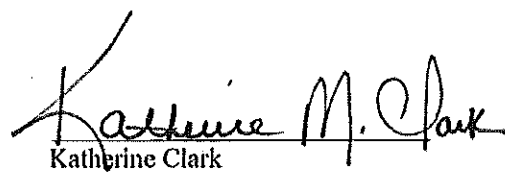
  
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

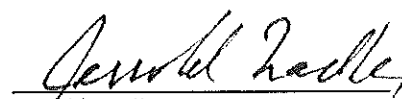
  
Ann McLane Kuster  
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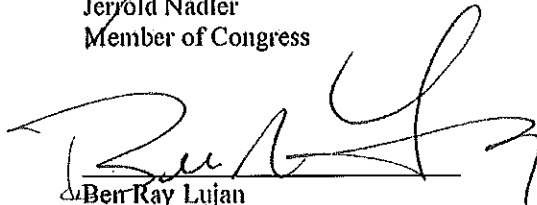
  
John Lewis  
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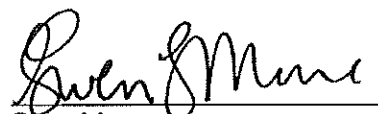
  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

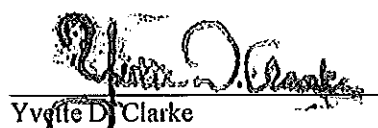
  
Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress

  
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress


  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

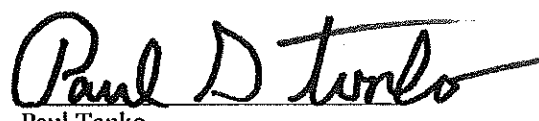
  
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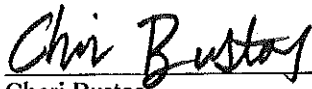
  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

  
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



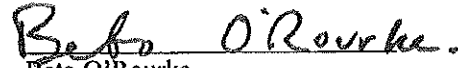
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



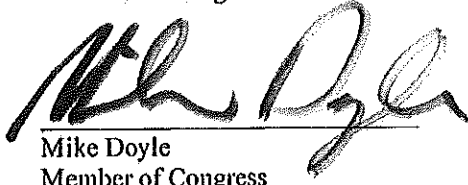
Bruce Poliquin  
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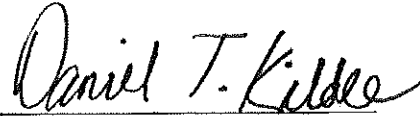
John Katko  
Member of Congress



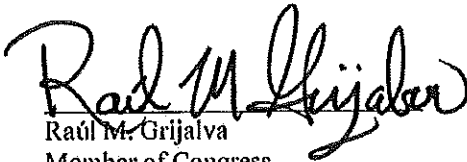
Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress



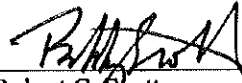
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress




Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



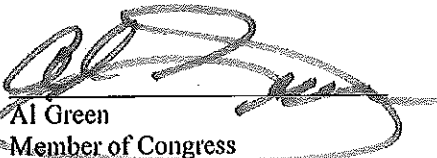
Robert C. Scott  
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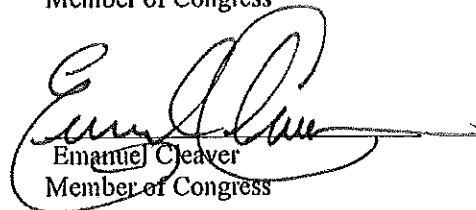
Chris Collins  
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



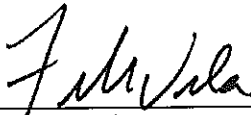
Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress




Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress



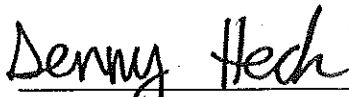
John P. Sarbanes  
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Filmon Vela  
Member of Congress



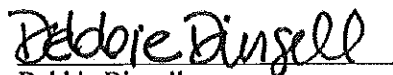
Ron Kind  
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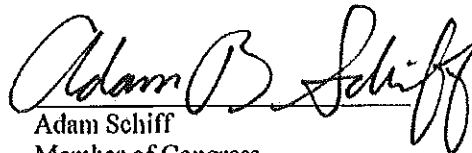
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress



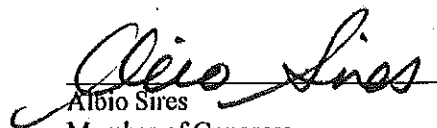
Debbie Dingell  
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Adam Schiff  
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Alan Lowenthal  
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Albio Sires  
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Alcee L. Hastings  
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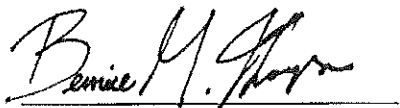
Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress




André Carson  
Member of Congress



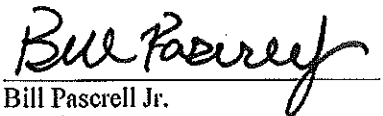
Ann Kirkpatrick  
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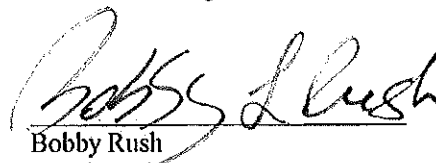
Bennie G. Thompson  
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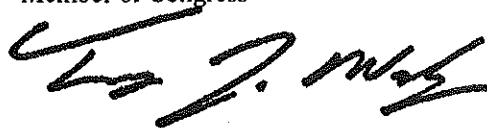
Bill Foster  
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Bill Pascrell Jr.  
Member of Congress



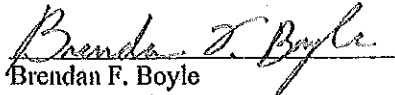
Bobby Rush  
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Tim Walz  
Member of Congress




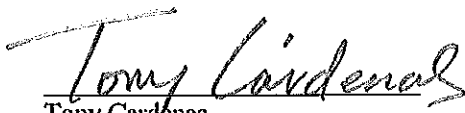
Brenda L. Lawrence  
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Brendan F. Boyle  
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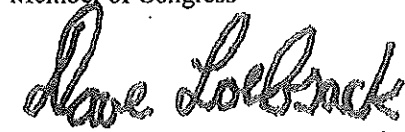
  
Candice Miller  
Member of Congress

  
Chaka Fattah  
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Chellie Pingree  
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Tony Cardenas  
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Daniel Lipinski  
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Dave Loebsack  
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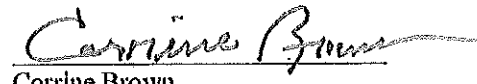
  
Tulsi Gabbard  
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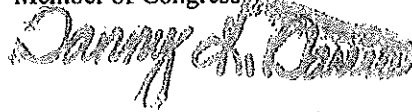
  
Brian Higgins  
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Caroline Maloney  
Member of Congress

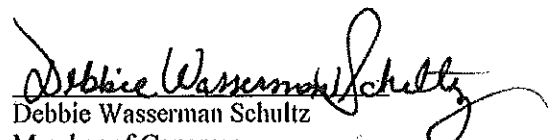
  
Tom Marino  
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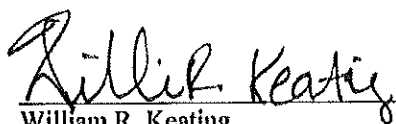
  
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Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

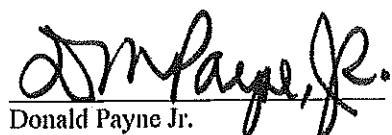
  
Danny K. Davis  
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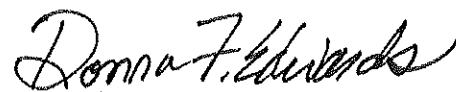
  
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Member of Congress


  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

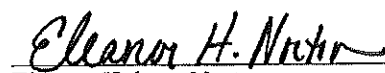
  
William R. Keating  
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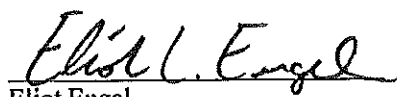
  
Diana DeGette  
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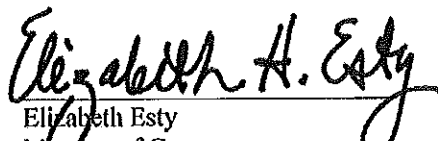
  
Donald Payne Jr.  
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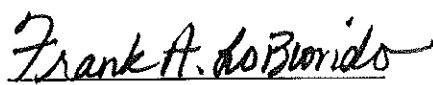
  
Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

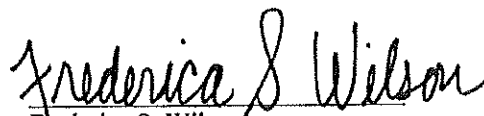
  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

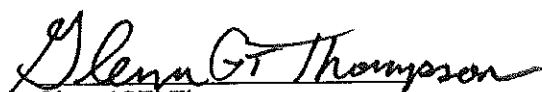
  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress

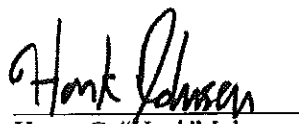
  
Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress

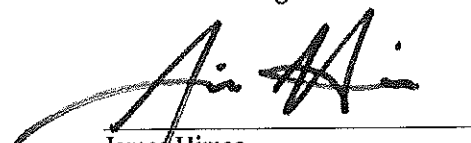
  
Frank A. LoBiondo  
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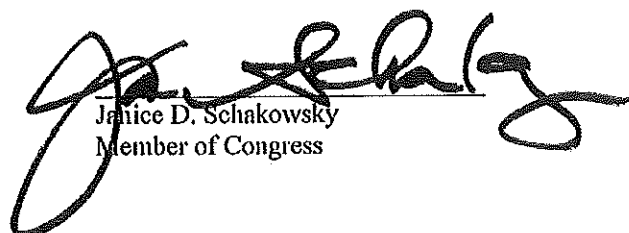
  
Frederica S. Wilson  
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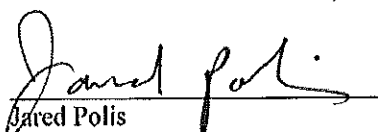
  
Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress


  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress


  
James Himes  
Member of Congress

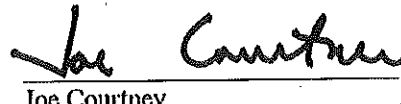
  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
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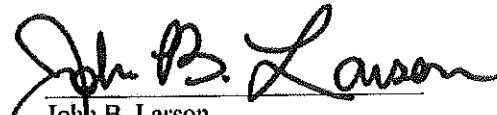
  
Jared Polis  
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress


  
Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress

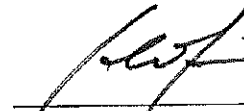
  
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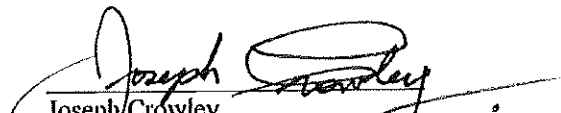
  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress


  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

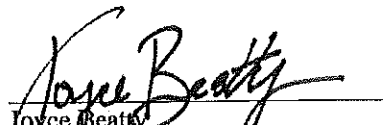
  
John Conyers  
Member of Congress


  
John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

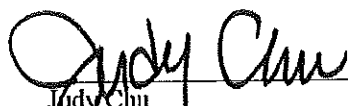
  
John Yarmuth  
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Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress


  
Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

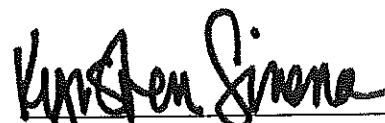
  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

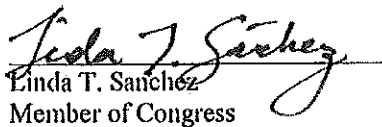
  
Judy Chu  
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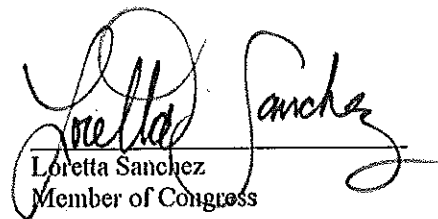
  
Kathleen Rice  
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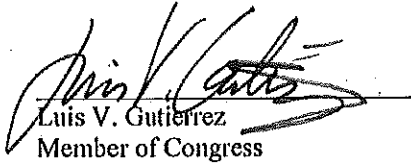
  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

  
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

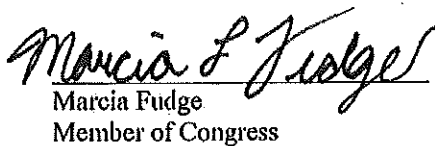


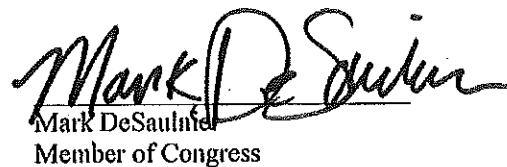
  
Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress

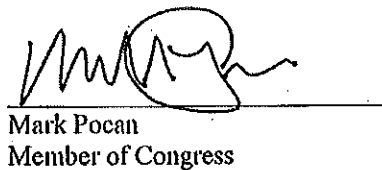
  
Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

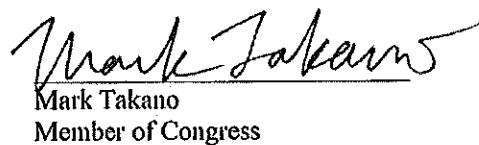
  
Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress

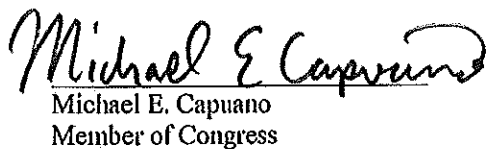
  
Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

  
Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress

  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

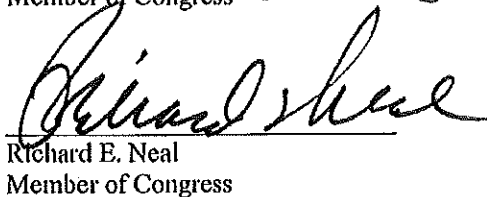
  
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

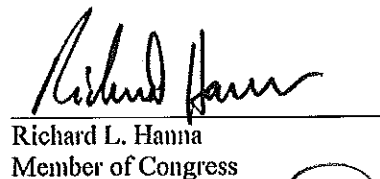
  
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

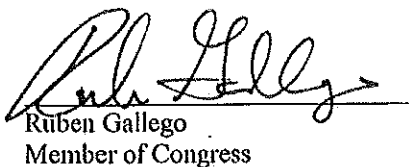
  
Michael C. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

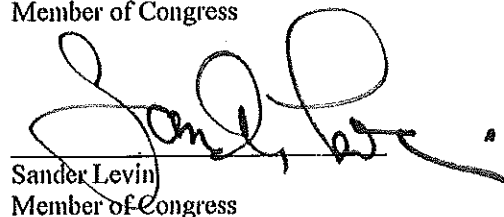
  
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress


  
Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress

  
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

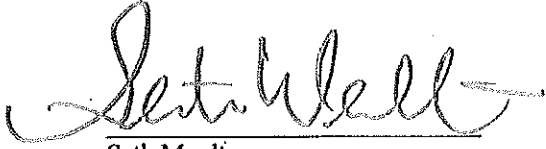
  
Richard L. Hanna  
Member of Congress

  
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress


  
Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

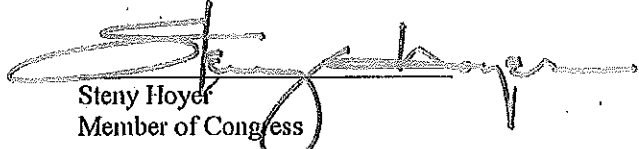
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

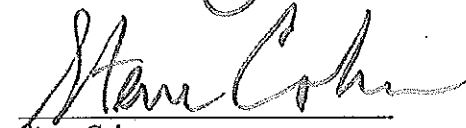
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

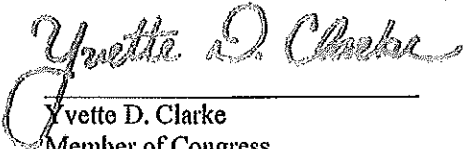
Steny Hoyer  
Member of Congress


Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

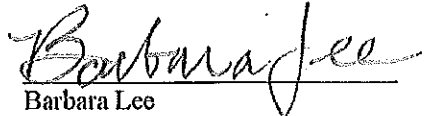
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress


Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress


Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

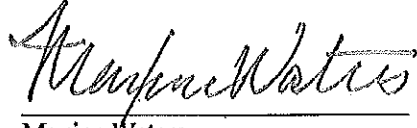
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

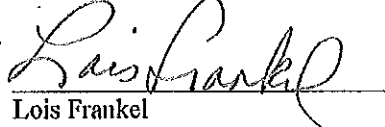
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

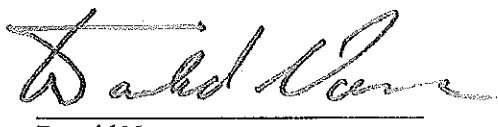
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Frank C. Guinta  
Member of Congress

*Michelle Lujan Grisham*

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress

*Don Beyer*

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Matt Cartwright*

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

*Stacey E Plaskett*

Stacey Plaskett  
Member of Congress